



## What is Adopt-A-Neighborhood?

The Adopt-A-Neighborhood Program encourages residents, businesses, corporations, civic organizations and nonprofits to work together in order to respond to neighborhood needs. Through the assistance of corporate partners and local nonprofit organizations, the Program transforms rundown or abandoned areas into centers of community life.

Adopt-A-Neighborhood projects include facade rehabilitations and area clean-ups, as well as new playgrounds, baseball fields and parks.

Project costs can range from \$2,500 to \$600,000, depending on the scope and property acquisition. Additionally, corporate sponsors do more than offer financial contributions – they work side-by-side with community members to make a difference.

The benefits are not only visible to the adopted community, but can be seen through the cooperation between the public and private sectors and improved corporate visibility.

## How Can You Get Involved?

Contact the Adopt-A-Neighborhood Coordinator at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Housing and Community Resources at (609) 292-3796 or send an e-mail to [dhcr@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:dhcr@dca.state.nj.us).



The Division of Housing and Community Resources provides financial and technical assistance to community-based nonprofit and local government agencies in an effort to improve the quality of life for New Jersey's low-income, disabled and disadvantaged citizens.



James E. McGreevey  
Governor



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

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September 2003



# Adopt-A-Neighborhood Program



James E. McGreevey  
Governor



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

## Greetings from Governor McGreevey & Commissioner Levin

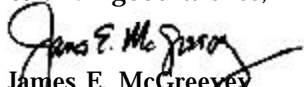
Our neighborhoods are where we live, work and play. They are the backbone of New Jersey.

That is why the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) strives to strengthen the social, physical and economic fabric of communities through volunteerism. The Adopt-A-Neighborhood Program gives business and civic organizations an opportunity to help neighborhoods identify and achieve their objectives through volunteering to "adopt" them.

Last fall, the program coordinated the planning, fundraising and construction of a new playground and park at the Thomas Mundy Peterson School in Perth Amboy (see photos). The program secured a \$100,000 from sponsors, but with volunteer and pro-bono services, the estimated project value totaled \$130,000. Where 200 pre-school-age children used to play in a paved parking lot, there is now a landscaped park with safe playground equipment.

Adopt-A-Neighborhood continues to benefit our communities, raising the public's awareness of the partnerships and resources available to improve the quality of life throughout New Jersey. After all, a state is only as strong as its municipalities and a neighborhood is only as strong as its neighbors.

With all good wishes,

  
James E. McGreevey  
Governor

  
Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

## Who Can Apply to Adopt-A-Neighborhood?

Any business, corporation, foundation, civic organization or interested citizen who has time and energy to volunteer can participate in the program. It is an opportunity for anyone who cares about a neighborhood to have a real impact. Groups often take pride in their "adopted" neighborhood, improving the quality of life for anyone who lives, works or visits there.



## How Does the Adopt-A-Neighborhood Program Work?

Interested persons or groups are introduced to the neighborhood and its needs. Meetings are held with residents who are encouraged to communicate and participate. Resources are then coordinated and projects are tailored to neighborhood interests and needs.

## What Type of Assistance is Available?

- **Community Services** - Any type of professional counseling, mentoring, emergency assistance or health care program
- **Education** - Schooling, training or scholarship assistance that enables individuals residing in a neighborhood to achieve educational goals
- **Job Training** - Instruction for residents to gain and improve employment skills
- **Crime Prevention** - Support for activities that aim to reduce crime such as neighborhood watch, block parent projects and community policing
- **Property Improvement Assistance** - Labor, materials and technical advice for neighborhood home and property owners
- **Economic Development** - Assistance with business development plans, financial strategies and marketing programs
- **Civic Improvements** - Recreational facilities, community gardens and other beautification projects that visibly enhance the quality of life in a neighborhood

## What is the Advantage of the Adopt-A- Neighborhood Program?

Everyone benefits because anyone can become involved. Volunteering your time is an excellent way to sharpen your talents while supporting your neighborhood. The program offers citizens, neighbors and businesses an opportunity to invest in the revitalization of New Jersey's communities, and it strengthens corporate image while promoting public communication and cooperation.